

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-14 and 16 are in the application, with Claims 12 and 16 having been amended and with Claims 15, 17 and 18 having been cancelled. Claims 1 and 12 are the independent claims herein. No new matter has been added. Entry hereof and further examination are respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 1 and 3-7 are rejected for non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over Claims 1, 4 and 5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,882,064. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, Applicant encloses herewith a suitable Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

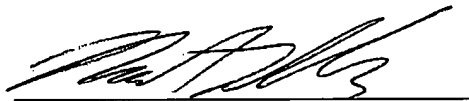
Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,574,288 ("Welland") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,600,187 ("El-Hamamsy"). Claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 15, which was indicated as allowable. Claim 12 is therefore believed to be allowable and withdrawal of the rejection thereof is respectfully requested. In this regard, the above amendments are believed to place the application in condition for allowance without raising further issues or requiring a new search. Entry of the amendments under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 is therefore believed to be proper.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-0049.

Respectfully submitted,

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